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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 19 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government and in pursuance of the previous letters of this Mission, including the letters circulated as documents A/61/571-S/2006/884 and A/61/954-S/2007/354 with regard to the blatant violation of the most basic principles of international law by the Israeli regime in making threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran, I wish to inform you that, in the absence of any action by the Security Council, and in full contempt for the basic provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the provisions which call for refraining "from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations", various Israeli officials have relentlessly and in full impunity continued to make malicious threats of resorting to force against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this regard, and in yet another outrageous remark against my country, on Monday, 14 January 2008, the Israeli regime's Prime Minister threatened to use military action against Iran, and, once again, put on display the aggressive and terrorist nature of the said regime by saying that "we reject no options a priori" in dealing with Iran's peaceful nuclear programme. Earlier, on 7 December 2007, the Israeli ambassador in London, while referring to Iran's peaceful nuclear programme, also made threats against Iran by saying that "it should be made clear that if Iran does not cooperate, then military confrontation is inevitable".

These unacceptable and unjustifiable threats follow many others made in the past, including the Israeli Prime Minister's remarks in 2007 in which he had stressed: "nobody is ruling military option out ... It is impossible perhaps to destroy

the entire [Iranian] nuclear programme but it would be possible to damage it in such a way that it would be set back years ...".

The daily barrage of Israeli threats against the Islamic Republic of Iran, including — but not limited to — the above-mentioned statements and those mentioned in documents A/61/571-S/2006/884 and A/61/954-S/2007/354, constitute a flagrant violation of the most fundamental principles of international law and the basic provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and, therefore, require an urgent and resolute response on the part of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council.

It is ironic, and indeed preposterous, that the Israeli regime with its shocking record and long catalogue of resorting to force, terrorism, aggression and occupation against various Members of the United Nations, and as a regime which has committed and continues to perpetrate one of the worst kinds of genocide, racism and indeed "ethnic cleansing" — as described by United Nations officials — against the Palestinian people, is making baseless allegations of "incitement to commit genocide" against others, including in the letter of its representative addressed to you on 19 February 2008.

The distortions and fabrications made in the said letter of the representative of the Israeli regime display yet another failed smokescreen by the said regime to distract the international community's attention from the war crimes, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and genocide that it continues to commit against the Palestinians in full impunity. It is also a tired attempt to deflect the United Nations attention from the inexplicable and unlawful threats that the said regime has made and continues to make against the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries of the region.

Undoubtedly, the inaction of the Security Council in dealing with the criminal policies and practices of the Israeli regime, and the impunity with which this regime has been allowed to carry out its crimes thus far, have emboldened it in its irresponsible behaviour. The Security Council should react to these threats by unambiguously condemning them and calling on the said regime to cease and desist immediately from the threat of using force against Members of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17, 18 and 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative